

STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 13, 2010

TO: Superintendents

Area Education Agency Administrators

Area Education Agency English Language Learners Consultants

FROM: Kevin Fangman

Acting Director

SUBJECT: Iowa English Language Development Assessment (I-ELDA) Exam Costs

for 2010-2011

The Iowa Department of Education (IDE) will continue to allocate funds to cover the Iowa English Language Development Assessment (I-ELDA) for the 2010-2011 school year. **The IDE's ability to pay for these exams will be evaluated on a yearly basis.** Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will not receive the funds for the exam costs directly. LEAs will continue to order exams through Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA), and in turn, the Northwest AEA will bill the IDE for exam costs.

In regards to screening students, local districts may use the LAS and IPT exams to screen and place students, however, districts will incur these costs. The IDE is investigating the development of a low cost screener to help reduce the costs of determining an incoming student's English Language abilities and need for service. The IDE is also investigating the use of a shortened form of the I-ELDA, which is intended to save valuable instructional time.

If you need further clarification, please contact John Scott, Title III Consultant, at (515) 281-3805 or John.Scott@iowa.gov.